

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY JAKARTA

Volume 2, February 2009

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Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton



On January 21, 2009, Hillary Rodham Clinton was sworn in as the 67th Secretary of State of the United States. Secretary Clinton joined the State Department after nearly four decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady, and Senator.

In her welcoming remarks to State Department

employees, Secretary Clinton stated: *"President Obama set the tone with his inaugural address. And the work of the Obama-Biden Administration is committed to advancing America's national security, furthering America's interests, and respecting and exemplifying America's values around the world."*

Duties of the Secretary of State

Under the Constitution, the President of the United States determines U.S. foreign policy. The Secretary of State, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, is the President's chief foreign affairs adviser.

The Secretary carries out the President's foreign policies through the State Department and the Foreign Service of the United States.

Created in 1789 by the Congress as the successor to the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of State is the senior executive Department of the U.S. Government. The Secretary of State's duties relating to foreign affairs have not changed significantly since then, but they have become far more complex as international commitments multiplied. These duties -- the activities and responsibilities of the State Department.

For more details, see <http://www.state.gov/secretary/>

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

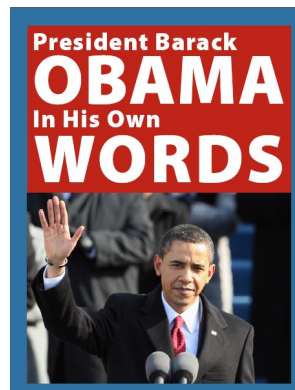
Secretary Clinton: Travel to Asia, February, 15-22, 2009

Remarks are available at: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/trvl/2009/116166.htm>
See also **U.S. - Indonesia Relations** on page 2.

Obama in His Own Words

These pages share President Obama's words with our global readership. This book includes the complete text of the 44th President's Inaugural Address. Also featured are extended excerpts from eight other significant campaign and pre-presidential speeches. It is our hope that while the book itself is small, readers will discover that the vision captured in its pages is large.

This e-book is available online at:
http://www.america.gov/publications/books/obama_speech.html



Inside this issue:

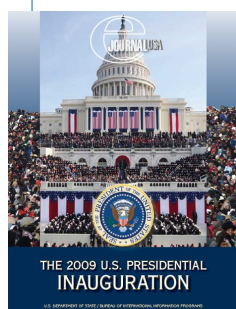
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ARTICLE ALERT

*"I do solemnly swear
(or affirm)
that I will faithfully execute
the office of President
of the United States,
and will to the best of my
ability, preserve, protect
and defend
the Constitution of the
United States."*

**U.S. Presidential
Oath of Office**

New E-Journal



The 2009 U.S. Presidential Inauguration

The citizens of the United States enthusiastically celebrated the inauguration of their 44th president in January 2009. The peaceful transfer of power always renews faith in the strength of democracy, but in 2009 the rise of an African-American to the nation's highest office also gave reason for pride at the nation's repudiation of the segregation and slavery in its past. President Barack Obama called it a day when Americans chose "hope over fear."

Currently available at:

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/inaug09.html>

U.S.- Indonesia Relations

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Visits Indonesia

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Indonesia on February 18 and 19 during her first official overseas trip, demonstrating a clear U.S. interest in developing the already strong relationship with Indonesia into a long-term partnership based on shared values. Her first trip to the country since she visited as First Lady in 1994, Secretary Clinton exchanged views with both senior government officials, a cross-section of civil society

representatives, and ordinary Indonesians. Following remarks are available at: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/trvl/2009/116166.htm>

1. DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH INDONESIA

Remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with Indonesian Foreign Minister Noer Hassan Wirajuda, Jakarta, February 18, 2009

2. BEGINNING A NEW ERA OF DIPLOMACY IN ASIA

Remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with ASEAN

Secretary General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan

Jakarta, February 18, 2009

3. THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

Remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Indonesian Civil Society Dinner Jakarta, February 18, 2009

4. EXPANDING THE U.S.-INDONESIA DIALOGUE

Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton Secretary of State Roundtable with Indonesian Journalists Jakarta, February 19, 2009

Democracy and Global Issues

5. Gurwitt, Rob **POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE** (Governing, January 2009)

Gurwitt discusses the decline of statehouse journalism. As media outlets struggle to stay afloat in a weak economy, coverage of state legislatures faces severe cuts. The author talks with current and former statehouse reporters who discuss the current state of statehouse journalism.

Currently available online at <http://www.governing.com/articles/0901pressc.htm>

6. Herbert, David **AGENCIES STRUGGLING TO MAKE CONNECTIONS ONLINE** (National Journal, February 02, 2009)

President Obama wants government agencies to be more transparent and communicate

more with their audiences online. Many agencies have been using social-networking media long before Obama's directives, but with little success, the author says. Bureaucratic inefficiency and outdated and inflexible laws are partially to blame, Herbert writes, but "the biggest problem facing most agencies isn't the trap of outdated regulations but the failure to attract an audience." The article examines how web managers need to think about how to use Web 2.0 tools, not just to use them for the sake of using them. It also examines how the successful government social networking sites are the ones that allow an open discussion. Currently available online at http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no_20090126_4207.php

7. Sifry, Micah L. **A SEE-THROUGH SOCIETY** (Vol. 47, no. 5, January-February 2009, pp. 43-48)

The public reaction to the Congressional emergency bailout legislation in September 2008 was overwhelming; an unprecedented number of e-mails crashed the House of Representatives web site, and several independent web sites that track Congressional activity were swamped. That explosion of public engagement online, Sifry says, signals "the beginning of a new age of political transparency. The new Obama administration has expressed a commitment to expanding government transparency with online databases. Currently available online at http://www.cjr.org/transparency/a_see-through_society.php

Economic Issues

9. Leonhardt, David **THE BIG FIX** (New York Times Magazine, February 1, 2009, pp. 22-29, 48//51)

An economics columnist for The New York Times, discusses the biggest challenge for the Obama administration in bringing the economy back to life. The economy will recover, but it is likely to get significantly worse over the course of 2009, no matter what President Obama and the Congress do. Washington will not merely be given the task of

pulling the economy out of the crisis, but in putting in on a more sustainable path.

8. Nocera, Joe **RISK MISMANAGEMENT** (New York Times Magazine, January 4, 2009, pp. 24//51)

Nocera notes that stabilizing the U.S. economy is probably the most important issue the Obama administration will face; the risks taken by the U.S. and European investment firms have threatened to bring down the entire financial system. Many have suggested

that the cause of the catastrophe was the widespread institutional reliance on a value-at-risk (VaR) financial model that did not take into account the biggest risk of all -- the possibility of a financial meltdown. This was one of Alan Greenspan's primary excuses when he testified about the financial crisis before Congress in 2008. The late 1980s and the early 1990s were a time when many firms were trying to devise more sophisticated risk models because the world was changing around them.

International Security

10. Alarcon, Daniel **WAGING COMMUNICATION WAR** (Parameters, Summer 2008, pp. 37-51)

The author, a visiting fellow at Oxford University's Reuters Institute, notes that winning wars cannot be accomplished simply by effective communications; however, it is also impos-

sible to win wars without effective communications. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. is fighting wars where the effective communication of ideas and information is a key part of the struggle. To achieve credible communication, American messages must be grounded in verifiable fact and should be coherent and

consistent. The American military should learn from the marketing industry on communicating effectively, particularly utilizing the concepts of branding and audience segmentation.

Currently available online at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/08summer/payne.htm>

U.S. Society and Values

11. Adam Gopnik **TWIN PEAKS** (Smithsonian, vol. 39, no. 11, February 2009, pp. 50-54)

Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born on the same day in February 1809, on opposite sides of the Atlantic and into very different circumstances; in the era in which they were born, people mostly believed that life on Earth as they knew it had been that way since the beginning of

time, and that societies without existing order were inherently unstable. By the time Lincoln and Darwin had died, history had changed, and what they had done, written or said had contributed significantly to that change. In the early nineteenth century, democracy was a fringe idea in the minds of a small number of idealists, and the future of democracy in America was far from assured. At the same time, the sciences were changing our view of the

earth and how life evolved. The author writes that Lincoln and Darwin not only represent the "two pillars of our society" -- liberal democracy and the human sciences -- but that they have come to represent that because they wrote so clearly, and that their writings are remarkably fresh even today. Currently available at: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Darwin-Lincoln-Twin-Peaks.html>

Diversity

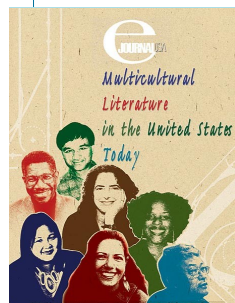
Immigration: The American People

Throughout America's history, hopeful immigrants have arrived to establish new lives in a new world. Each person becomes part of the American mosaic.

Available online at:

<http://www.america.gov/ultimedia/photogallery.html#/4110/americanpeople/>

New E-Journal



Multicultural Literature in the United States Today

The United States is enriched culturally by immigrants from many nations. This edition of e-Journal USA focuses on distinguished American writers from various ethnic backgrounds who add immeasurably to mutual understanding and appreciation through tales of their native lands and their experiences as Americans.

Available online at:

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0209lit.html>

Information Resource Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5
Jakarta Pusat 10110

Phone: 021-350-8467
Fax: 021-350-8466
E-mail: IRCAAlert@state.gov

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1. () DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH INDONESIA
2. () BEGINNING A NEW ERA OF DIPLOMACY IN ASIA
3. () THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE PEACEFUL WORLD
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9. () THE BIG FIX
10. () WAGING COMMUNICATION WAR
11. () TWIN PEAKS

Special Offers:

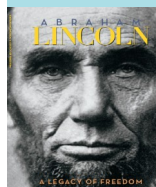
- () Obama In His Own Word (see page 1)
- () Abraham Lincoln—A Legacy of Freedom

LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL 1809 — 2009



<http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/default.aspx>

February 2009 : Abraham Lincoln—A Legacy of Freedom



The year 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th president, and the man often considered its greatest leader. As the United States endured its greatest crisis, this self-educated common man supplied the leadership and the moral force that bound Americans together and carried them to victory. His vision spanned diplomacy and military strategy, political thought and elemental justice for all

Americans --- including the African-American slaves he emancipated. The essays gathered here introduce readers to this "best and most widely acclaimed of all Americans."

Currently available at:
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/lincoln.html>